

27 May 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT: National Intelligence Survey (NIS) Program

REFERENCE: UTIB-AM-64/4, 27 February 1964

1. In accordance with the reference the NIS Committee reports to USIB on 1) selected high-level consumer evaluation of the new General Surveys and the re-oriented NIS as compared with previous NIS coverage and 2) recommended priorities in planned NIS production by foreign areas and topics.

2. The one-volume General Survey, as the primary unit in accelerated and selective NIS coverage, is unanimously assessed by the requested evaluations as a significant improvement enhancing the effectiveness of the re-oriented NIS Program.

a. These views are set forth in the attached copies (Annex A) of the responses to inquiries addressed to four Assistant Secretaries of State, four Ambassadors, and the Commanders of four unified Commands of the Department of Defense. These addressees are officers with specific interest in areas on which new General Surveys had been published.

b. The responses contain certain suggestions on NIS content and format. The suggestions, which include a number for interim updating that the NIS Committee explored in detail before instituting the current re-orientation as an appropriate and feasible means of providing more timely NIS coverage, will be actively and carefully studied by the Committee.

3. The recommended pattern of priorities in NIS production is indicated by the attached Annex B, which shows the NIS units in the FY 1963 schedule developed and approved by the NIS Committee.

a. As shown in Annex B, 30 General Surveys will account for approximately 240 or more than 50% of the total production units during FY 1965. This will bring to 36 the number of foreign areas

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covered by the new General surveys, or by former Chapter I - Brief providing similar general coverage pending replacement by General surveys. This level of annual production, which the producing agencies consider to be the optimum General Survey capability at this time, will provide worldwide General Survey maintenance on a 2 to 4 year cycle. In future scheduling the NIS Committee plans to sustain this dominance of the General Surveys in NIS production.

b. Annex B further shows the 185 supplementary topical units which have been selectively scheduled for FY 1965. This is a decrease from 265 such units scheduled in FY 1964, and from 379 in FY 1963. Certain of the items appear in the schedule because of collection and research already underway or other scheduling considerations involved, but in general the production level and topical mix indicates the planned pattern for future selective scheduling of units supplementing the General Surveys.

c. In terms of world areas, Latin American and African coverage is emphasized in FY 1965. Thirteen of the General Surveys in this schedule will cover African and Latin American areas. This pattern of General Surveys and selective supplementary units reflects the continued efforts of the NIS Committee to increase basic intelligence coverage for Africa and Latin America as rapidly as the required specialized capabilities permit.

c. The FY 1965 schedule reflects the NIS Committee's considered accommodation to the many factors involved in this interagency production. Among the major factors are: 1) indicated consumer requirements, 2) amount of agency effort available for NIS production, 3) availability of topical and area specialists as determined by the producing agencies, 4) extent NIS coverage, 5) appropriateness of units to supplement the General Survey on a given area, and 6) decision on the need for initial coverage as weighed against the need for maintenance of published units because of significant areas or topical changes.

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Chairman, NIS Committee

Attachments:

1. Annex A
2. Annex B

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Chairman, NIS Committee

Attachments:

1. Annex A
2. Annex B

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